



MISSOURI SENATE

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Senator John Cauthorn and Senator Dan Clemens Promote Missouri Dairies

Senate Legislation Recognizes Import of Missouri's Dairy Producers and Processors

State Senator John Cauthorn, R-Mexico, kicked off a month-long campaign this week to promote Missouri's valuable dairy industry in conjunction with June Dairy Month. The launch follows several weeks' worth of Cauthorn's time in drafting and advancing a Senate resolution calling attention to the import of Missouri's dairy industry to the state's economy and the need to redouble efforts in expanding dairy market opportunities.

"Dairy farmers in Missouri's 18th Senate District are representational of the professional operators we have across the Show-Me State," Cauthorn said. "Their efforts deserve to be recognized during special events like June Dairy Month, and their products deserve strong government backing and support in June and over the other 11 months, too."

Introduced by Cauthorn in April and approved by the Legislature in mid-May, Senate Concurrent Resolution 21 calls on Missouri's Department of Agriculture to work in cooperation with the Missouri Dairy Growth Council to complete a five-year plan for Missouri's dairy industry, including establishing a website for dairy production marketing. (A complete copy of the resolution text and an accompanying picture follow this release.)

“It also asks the Department of Natural Resources to reach an agreement with the dairy industry on what are required and acceptable regulations for dairy and heifer growing operations,” Cauthorn said. “Also, we’re wanting the Department of Economic Development to receive a detailed briefing on the economic impact of Missouri dairy operations so we can begin to look at long range strategic planning instead of just day-to-day tactical patching.”

Joining Cauthorn in promoting the dairy industry is Senate resolution co-sponsor Senator Dan Clemens, R-Marshfield.

“John’s and my districts are very similar in demographics, commerce and industry,” Clemens said. “Dairy farms play a huge economic role in both regions, as they do across the state, making the promotion of the industry important to all Missourians in June and all year ‘round.”

Cauthorn said that, while bordering states are seeing their dairy industries grow exponentially, Missouri dairy producers are facing an uphill battle.

“The number of dairy farms has declined by more than 80 percent over the last 28 years,” Cauthorn said. “As the Missouri Dairy Growth Council has lined out in their Dairy Producers’ Industry Plan, we need to create a business climate that promotes growth and investment in Missouri dairies, and we need to provide a strong organizational and communications infrastructure to ensure long term success for dairy producers. Working together, I feel confident we can meet or beat our dairy competing states.”



Senator John Cauthorn (right) and Senator Dan Clemens look over SCR 21, which emphasizes the importance of Missouri’s dairy industry and calls upon state agencies to lend a hand in expanding market opportunities. Senator Cauthorn’s son Andrew looks on.

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Complete Text of Senator Cauthorn's SCR 21

WHEREAS, Missouri's dairy industry has dramatically changed over the past three decades; and

WHEREAS, the number of dairy farms has declined by 83% and state milk production has dropped by 35% since 1975; and

WHEREAS, neighboring states around Missouri are making tremendous advances to expand their dairy industry and have found solutions in spite of state budget shortfalls; and

WHEREAS, the Missouri Dairy Growth Council has developed a "Dairy Producers' Industry Plan" that emphasizes necessary changes for expanding Missouri's dairy industry including:

- (1) Enhancing Missouri dairy operations by providing producer education and training;
- (2) Focusing on business planning, financial bench marking, employee training and management and risk management can lead to successful dairy enterprises;
- (3) Creating a business climate that promotes growth and investment in Missouri dairies will result in the long-term health and expansion of the Missouri dairy industry;
- (4) Expanding access to capital for dairy modernization, creation, and expansion is essential to the success of the dairies in Missouri; and
- (5) Providing a strong organizational and communications infrastructure to ensure long-term success for dairy producers; and

WHEREAS, the time is right to bring back the dairy industry in Missouri and reverse the downward trends:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Missouri Senate, Ninety-Second General Assembly, First Regular Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, hereby endorse the recommendations of the Missouri Dairy Growth Council; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Missouri's Department of Agriculture work in cooperation with the Missouri Dairy Growth Council to complete a five-year plan for Missouri's dairy industry including the establishment of a website for the marketing of all dairy production inputs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Department of Natural Resources reach an agreement with the dairy industry on what are required and acceptable regulations for dairy and heifer growing operations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Department of Economic Development receive a detailed briefing on the economic impact of Missouri dairy operations.